



News Release

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IDWR SETS PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR SEPT. 17
ON BILLINGSLEY CREEK MINIMUM FLOW REQUESTS

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State water right managers have set September 17 as the date for a pair of public hearings on a request for minimum stream flow water rights on three reaches of Billingsley Creek in Gooding County, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The Idaho Water Resource Board filed the applications for the minimum stream flow water rights. The two water right requests seek minimum flows for wildlife habitat, for fish passage, fish rearing, fish spawning habitat and for aesthetic and recreational purposes.

If approved, the minimum stream flow water rights would be subordinate to all senior water rights on the creek, IDWR officials said.

The hearings will be at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Hagerman Valley Senior Citizens Center, 140 E. Lake Street in Hagerman. The 3:00 p.m. meeting is a formal hearing process in which official parties to the case present their evidence. The 7:00 p.m. meeting is less formal and allows area residents to provide comments about the applications.

The Board filed the first application in June 1991. The application asks for flows ranging from 30 Cubic Feet per Second up to 100 CFS on a 1.2-mile reach of the river that begins at the Buckeye Ditch diversion and extends downstream to the confluence of Billingsley Creek with the Snake River.

The second application was filed in July 1999. It asks for minimum flows ranging from 26 CFS to 100 CFS on two reaches of the creek. The first is a reach beginning at the hatchery access bridge and extending downstream for 0.75 miles. The second is a 1.5-mile reach beginning at the Johnson Grade bridge and extending downstream to the Buckeye Ditch diversion.

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Parties that wish to formally appear in the hearing for the purpose of presenting evidence and testimony or cross-examining witnesses need to file a notice of appearance with IDWR at least seven days prior to the hearing.

Public witnesses who plan to make comments in the 7 p.m. meeting do not need to file a notice of appearance.

The hearings will be held in a facility meeting accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need assistance to attend, participate in or understand the hearings, please contact Debbie Gibson, (208) 327-7953, in advance so arrangements can be made.

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